REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicant submits that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated or unpatentable under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Thus, the Applicant believes that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-9, 11-12, 14-21, 23-29 AND 31 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11-12, 14-21, 23-29 and 31 as being anticipated by Tingley, et al. (US Publication 2002/0138628, Published September 26, 2002, hereinafter referred to as "Tingley.") The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tingley teaches an extension of address resolution protocol (ARP) for internet protocol (IP) virtual networks. A bridge or switch forwards data packets received from sets of servers to a Virtual Network within a core network or vice versa. (See Tingley, para. [0042] and [0044].)

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Tingley fails to teach or suggest the novel concept of a method or system for exchanging information on a network comprising <u>a private network assigned to said one of said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch according to said address table, wherein said computer communicates with said private network via said one of said plurality of ports and said switch</u>, as positively claimed by Applicant's independent claim 1. Specifically, Applicant's independent claim 1 positively recites:

1.   A system for exchanging information on a network, comprising:
a switch coupled to a plurality of ports;
an address table;
a computer having an address, said computer coupled to one of said plurality of ports; and
<u>a private network assigned to said one of said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch according to said address table, wherein said computer communicates with said private network via said one of said plurality of ports and said switch</u>. (Emphasis added.)

Applicant's independent claims 9, 17, 20, 23, 25 and 28 include similar limitations. In an exemplary embodiment, the Applicant's invention teaches a method or

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system for exchanging information on a network comprising <u>a private network assigned</u>
<u>to said one of said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch</u>
<u>according to said address table, wherein said computer communicates with said private</u>
<u>network via said one of said plurality of ports and said switch</u>. For example, a plurality
of ports can be in different rooms or physical locations within a house or office. When a
PC is connected to one of the ports, a virtual private network is assigned to this port by
a switch based upon the MAC address of the PC. (See Applicant's specification, pg. 5,
l. 26 – pg. 6, l. 13.) The switch uses an address table to assign the appropriate virtual
private network to the port connected to the PC. (See Applicant's specification, pg. 6, ll.
14-29.) Consequently, the PC may be connected to any one of the plurality of ports and
the switch will assign the correct virtual private network to the PC regardless of which
port the PC is connected to. (See *Id.*)

In contrast, Tingley fails to teach, show or suggest a method or system for
exchanging information on a network comprising <u>a private network assigned to said one</u>
<u>of said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch according to said</u>
<u>address table, wherein said computer communicates with said private network via said</u>
<u>one of said plurality of ports and said switch</u>. The Examiner's attention is directed to the
fact that the private network and computer are <u>two separate entities</u> and that the
computer communicates with said private network <u>via said one of said plurality of ports</u>
<u>and said switch</u>. Tingley only teaches that a bridge or switch forwards data packets
received from sets of servers to a Virtual Network within a core network or vice versa.
(See Tingley, para. [0042] and [0044].) Even with the broadest interpretation of Tingley,
the Applicant respectfully submits that Tingley only teaches a server for Virtual Network
A communicating with itself only via a port and not <u>via said one of said plurality of ports</u>
<u>and said switch</u>, as taught by the Applicant's invention.

Moreover, Tingley fails to teach that a private network is <u>assigned</u> said one of
said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch according to said
address table, as taught by the Applicant's invention. In contrast, Tingley only teaches
distributing packets to the appropriate server. (See Tingley, para. [0044].) The address
table taught by Tingley is simply used to forward packets to the appropriate ethernet
link. (See Tingley, para. [0047].) Tingley clearly fails to teach <u>a private network</u>

<u>assigned to said one of said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch
according to said address table</u>. Therefore, Tingley <u>clearly</u> fails to anticipate the
Applicant's independent claim 1 and independent claims 9, 17, 20, 23, 25 and 28
containing similar limitations.

Furthermore, dependent claims 2-8, 11, 12, 14-16, 18-19, 21, 24, 26, 27, 29 and
31 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 9, 17, 20, 23, 25 and 28 and recite
additional limitations. As such, and for the exact same reason set forth above, the
Applicant submits that claims 2-8, 11, 12, 14-16, 18-19, 21, 24, 26, 27, 29 and 31 are
also patentable and not anticipated by Tingley. As such, the Applicant respectfully
requests the rejection be withdrawn.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 10, 13, 22, 30 AND 32-35 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

A.   Claims 10, 13 and 30

The Examiner rejected claims 10, 13 and 30 as being unpatentable over Tingley
in view of Miner, et al. (US Patent 6,804,332, issued October 12, 2004, hereinafter
referred to as "Miner"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The teachings of Tingley are discussed above. Miner teaches a network based
knowledgeable assistant. Miner teaches a computer-implemented method of
processing communications through a multimedia interface that includes a plurality of
interface devices and a plurality of input/output devices. (See Miner, Abstract.)

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Tingley and Miner, alone or in
any permissible combination, fail to teach, show or suggest a method or system for
exchanging information on a network comprising <u>a private network assigned to said one
of said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch according to said
address table, wherein said computer communicates with said private network via said
one of said plurality of ports and said switch</u>, as positively claimed by Applicant's
independent claims 9 and 28. (See *supra*.)

As discussed above, Tingley <u>clearly</u> does not teach, show or suggest a method
or system for exchanging information on a network comprising <u>a private network
assigned to said one of said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch
according to said address table, wherein said computer communicates with said private</u>

network via said one of said plurality of ports and said switch. Moreover, Miner fails to bridge the substantial gap left by Tingley. Miner only teaches a computer-implemented method of processing communications through a multimedia interface that includes a plurality of interface devices and a plurality of input/output devices. (See Miner, Abstract.) As such, the combination of Tingley and Miner does not teach, show or suggest Applicant's invention as recited in independent claims 9 and 28.

Dependent claims 10, 13 and 30 depend from independent claims 9 and 28 and recite additional limitations. As such, and for the exact same reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that claims 10, 13 and 30 are also not made obvious by the combination of Tingley and Miner. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

B.   Claim 22

The Examiner rejected claim 22 as being unpatentable over Tingley in view of Thornton, et al. (US Patent 6,363,065, issued March 26, 2002, hereinafter referred to as "Thornton"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The teachings of Tingley are discussed above. Thornton teaches an OK apparatus for a voice over IP (VoIP) telephony gateway and methods for use therein. The apparatus embeds, using call independent signaling, certain call-specific information, as non-standard data, within various conventional H.323 messages that transit between paired gateways. (See Thornton, Abstract.)

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Tingley and Thornton, alone or in any permissible combination, fail to teach, show or suggest a method or system for exchanging information on a network comprising a private network assigned to said one of said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch according to said address table, wherein said computer communicates with said private network via said one of said plurality of ports and said switch, as positively claimed by Applicant's independent claim 20. (See *supra*.)

As discussed above, Tingley clearly does not teach, show or suggest a method or system for exchanging information on a network comprising a private network assigned to said one of said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch

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according to said address table, wherein said computer communicates with said private
network via said one of said plurality of ports and said switch. Moreover, Thornton fails
to bridge the substantial gap left by Tingley. Thornton only teaches an OK apparatus for
a voice over IP (VoIP) telephoney gateway that embeds, using call independent
signaling, certain call-specific information, as non-standard data, within various
conventional H.323 messages that transit between paired gateways. (See Thornton,
Abstract.) As such, the combination of Tingley and Thornton does not teach, show or
suggest Applicant's invention as recited in independent claim 20.

Dependent claim 22 depends from independent claim 20 and recites additional
limitations. As such, and for the exact same reasons set forth above, the Applicant
submits that claim 22 is also not made obvious by the combination of Tingley and
Thornton. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

C.   Claims 32-35

The Examiner rejected claims 32-35 as being unpatentable over Tingley in view
of Fluss (US Patent 6,304,578, issued October 16, 2001, hereinafter referred to as
"Fluss"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The teachings of Tingley are discussed above. Fluss teaches packet routing and
queuing at the headend of shared data channel. A headend of a shared data channel
receives data packets, each data packet being addressed to a user of the shared data
channel. A buffer of the headend queues the data packets, and a router of the headend
assigns high transmittal priority to data packets addressed to users who have more
recently received a previous data packet and assigns low transmittal priority to data
packets addressed to users who have relatively less recently received a previous data
packet, wherein the low transmittal priority is a lower priority than the high transmittal
priority. (See Fluss, Abstract.)

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Tingley and Fluss, alone or in
any permissible combination, fail to teach, show or suggest a method or system for
exchanging information on a network comprising a modem coupled to said switch via an
Ethernet hub, said modem to exchange information from said virtual private network
assigned to said port to an external virtual private network corresponding to said

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<u>computer, via said port and via said switch</u>, as positively claimed by Applicant's independent claim 32. Applicant's independent claim 32 positively recites:

> 32.   A system for exchanging information from a plurality of ports to external private networks, comprising:
>   a switch coupled to said plurality of ports, said switch including an address table;
>   a virtual local area network created by said switch according to an address in said address table, and assigned to a port of said plurality of ports;
>   a computer coupled to said port, said computer including said address correlating to said virtual local area network; and
>   a modem coupled to said switch via an Ethernet hub, <u>said modem to exchange information from said virtual private network assigned to said port to an external virtual private network corresponding to said computer, via said port and via said switch</u>. (Emphasis added.)

In an exemplary embodiment, the Applicant's invention teaches a method or system for exchanging information on a network comprising a modem coupled to said switch via an Ethernet hub, <u>said modem to exchange information from said virtual private network assigned to said port to an external virtual private network corresponding to said computer, via said port and via said switch</u>. For example, a plurality of ports can be in different rooms or physical locations within a house or office. When a PC is connected to one of the ports, a virtual private network is assigned to this port by a switch based upon the MAC address of the PC. (See Applicant's specification, pg. 5, l. 26 – pg. 6, l. 13.) The switch uses an address table to assign the appropriate virtual private network to the port connected to the PC. (See Applicant's specification, pg. 6, ll. 14-29.) Consequently, the PC may be connected to any port and the switch will assign the correct virtual private network to the PC regardless of which port the PC is connected to. (See *Id.*)

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that the private network and computer are <u>two separate entities</u> and that the computer communicates with said private network <u>via said one of said plurality of ports and said switch</u>. Tingley only teaches that a bridge or switch forwards data packets received from sets of servers to a Virtual Network within a core network or vice versa. (See Tingley, para. [0042] and [0044].) Even with the broadest interpretation of Tingley, the Applicant respectfully

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submits that Tingley only teaches a server for Virtual Network A communicating with itself only via a port and not <u>via said one of said plurality of ports and said switch</u>, as taught by the Applicant's invention.

Moreover, no private network is <u>assigned</u> said one of said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch according to said address table in Tingley, as taught by the Applicant's invention. In contrast, Tingley only teaches distributing packets to the appropriate server. (See Tingley, para. [0044].) The address table taught by Tingley is simply used to forward packets to the appropriate ethernet link. (See Tingley, para. [0047].) Tingley clearly fails to teach <u>a private network assigned to said one of said plurality of ports connected to said computer by said switch according to said address table</u>. Therefore, Tingley <u>clearly</u> fails to teach, show or suggest a method or system for exchanging information on a network comprising a modem coupled to said switch via an Ethernet hub, <u>said modem to exchange information from said virtual private network assigned to said port to an external virtual private network corresponding to said computer, via said port and via said switch</u>, as positively claimed by Applicant's independent claim 32.

Moreover, Fluss fails to bridge the substantial gap left by Tingley. Fluss only teaches packet routing and queuing at the headend of shared data channel. (See Fluss, Abstract.) As such, the combination of Tingley and Fluss does not teach, show or suggest Applicant's invention as recited in independent claim 32.

In addition, dependent claims 33-35 depend from independent claim 32 and recites additional limitations. As such, and for the exact same reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that claims 33-35 are also not made obvious by the combination of Tingley and Fluss. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.
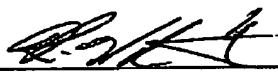
CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicant submits that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Consequently, the Applicant believes that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the maintenance of the present final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone <u>Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq.</u> at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

_1/23/06_

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